

May 2020

Dear Property Owner:

Previously, we sent you two letters to inform you of the public hearings related to special assessments for the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program. This is a follow up to provide additional information.

Purpose and Cost of the Gypsy Moth Suppression Program

This program provides relief to residents during gypsy moth outbreaks. Treatment reduces the number of caterpillars and the damage they cause but will not eliminate them altogether. The cost of the aerial spray will be charged as a special assessment of \$82.00 per treated acre, which was approved at the May 4, 2020 City Council meeting. This charge will appear on your 2020 summer tax bill.

2020 Treatment Location and Timing

Using resident complaints, tree damage assessments and egg mass surveys, our consultant, Aquatic Consulting Services, LLC, determined the areas of treatment. A total of 575 acres are scheduled for treatment this year. Your property is in the 2020 treatment area for a gypsy moth suppression program.

The one-day, aerial application will take place between the last week of May and the first week of June and we try to avoid treatment during the Memorial Day weekend. The exact date will be determined through continued monitoring of weather conditions, as well as caterpillar and tree canopy development. Spraying will be done when average wind speed is less than 10 miles per hour and relative humidity is more than 50-percent. In most cases, these constraints limit spraying to a morning activity.

How it Works

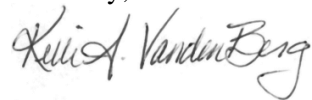
The insecticide used in this process is a naturally occurring bacteria called *Bacillus thuringiensis* (*Bt*), which is also used by organic gardeners. The applicator is Hamilton Helicopter, Inc., PO Box 264, 4488 134th Avenue, Hamilton, Michigan, 49419, (616)291-5808. The *Bt* brand used is Foray 76B (or equivalent). Our contractor will apply 1 quart of the *Bt* material over each acre in a very fine mist. It's unlikely for people to see or feel it. Drying takes 4 - 6 hours and once dry, rain does not wash it away.

The *Bt* only affects the caterpillars of moths and butterflies that are actively feeding at the time of treatment, which is why the application date varies. In an effective spray application, you may notice a change in the level of activity and responsiveness of the caterpillars, and they will die in 5-7 days.

More Information

Information related to the gypsy moth treatment is available on the City's website at www.wyomingmi.gov and updates will also be provided on the City's Facebook page. If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact the City Clerk's Office at (616)530-7296, Monday through Thursday, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Sincerely,



Kelli A. VandenBerg, City Clerk



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